

AA-801

STRUCTURE NO. 61, U.S. COAST GUARD YARD

CURTIS BAY

Public (Restricted)

The rail shipways and turntable, Yard Structure No. 61, was built in 1931 and is located on the northwest edge of the Cove. The turntable consists of a circular concrete base, approximately 5 feet in diameter, set into a one-foot deep concrete well. At ground level is a moveable rectangular platform on wheels, of iron construction, approximately 3 x 6 feet. A rail track leading from the eastern end of the turntable to the Cove's edge facilitated movement of small boats lifted in and out of the water by a crane at the shoreline. Boats were shuttled back and forth from water to turntable via this rail shipways, and on their arrival at the turntable, were rotated in the desired direction and switched to one of several railways radiating from the perimeter of the turntable. The boats were then moved along the railways to one of several indoor repair facilities and repair stations.

The turntable and shipways remain as important artifacts of early wooden boat building and repair techniques, now largely abandoned at the Yard due to modern demand for steel and plastic vessels.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Structure No. 61, Rail Shipways and Turntable

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

U.S. Coast Guard Yard

CITY, TOWN

Curtis Bay

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

21226

COUNTY

Anne Arundel

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☒ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☒ PUBLIC  
☐ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☒ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

U.S. Coast Guard

Telephone #: 789-1600

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Curtis Bay

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 21226**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Anne Arundel County Courthouse

Liber #: GW 47  
Folio #: 224

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

AA-801

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

No. 61, the Marine Railways and Turntable (1931) are located near the northwest edge of the Cove north of Building No. 16 and 5A. The turntable consists of a circular concrete base, approximately 5 feet in diameter, set one foot below ground in a shallow concrete well. At ground level is a moveable rectangular platform on wheels, of iron construction, approximately 3 x 6 feet. A rail track leading from the eastern end of the turntable to the Cove's edge facilitated movement of small boats lifted in and out of the water by a crane at the shoreline. Boats were shuttled back and forth from water to turntable via this rail shipways. On their arrival at the rail turntable, boats were rotated in the desired direction and switched to one of five railways radiating from the perimeter of the turntable. The boats were then moved along these railways toward indoor repair facilities in Building No.      and other adjacent repair stations.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

AA-801

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1931      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

No. 61, the Marine Railways and Turntable, possess significance as artifacts of early wooden boat repair techniques. Small boats were hoisted out of the water at the Cove's edge and rolled on a railed platform to the central turntable, where they were turned and routed via railways radiating from the turntable to one of several repair stations. The lapse in use of this turntable and railways parallels a general reduction in building and repair activity on the Yard in the post-war days, and the concentration since that time of those functions on the newer southern and western sections of the Yard where modern drydocks and shipways have been built.

The turntable and shipways remain as important artifacts of early wooden boat building and repair techniques, now largely abandoned at the Yard due to modern demand for steel and plastic vessels.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

AA-801

See attached continuation sheet

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Susanne Moore, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

August 1981

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle/Shaw House

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

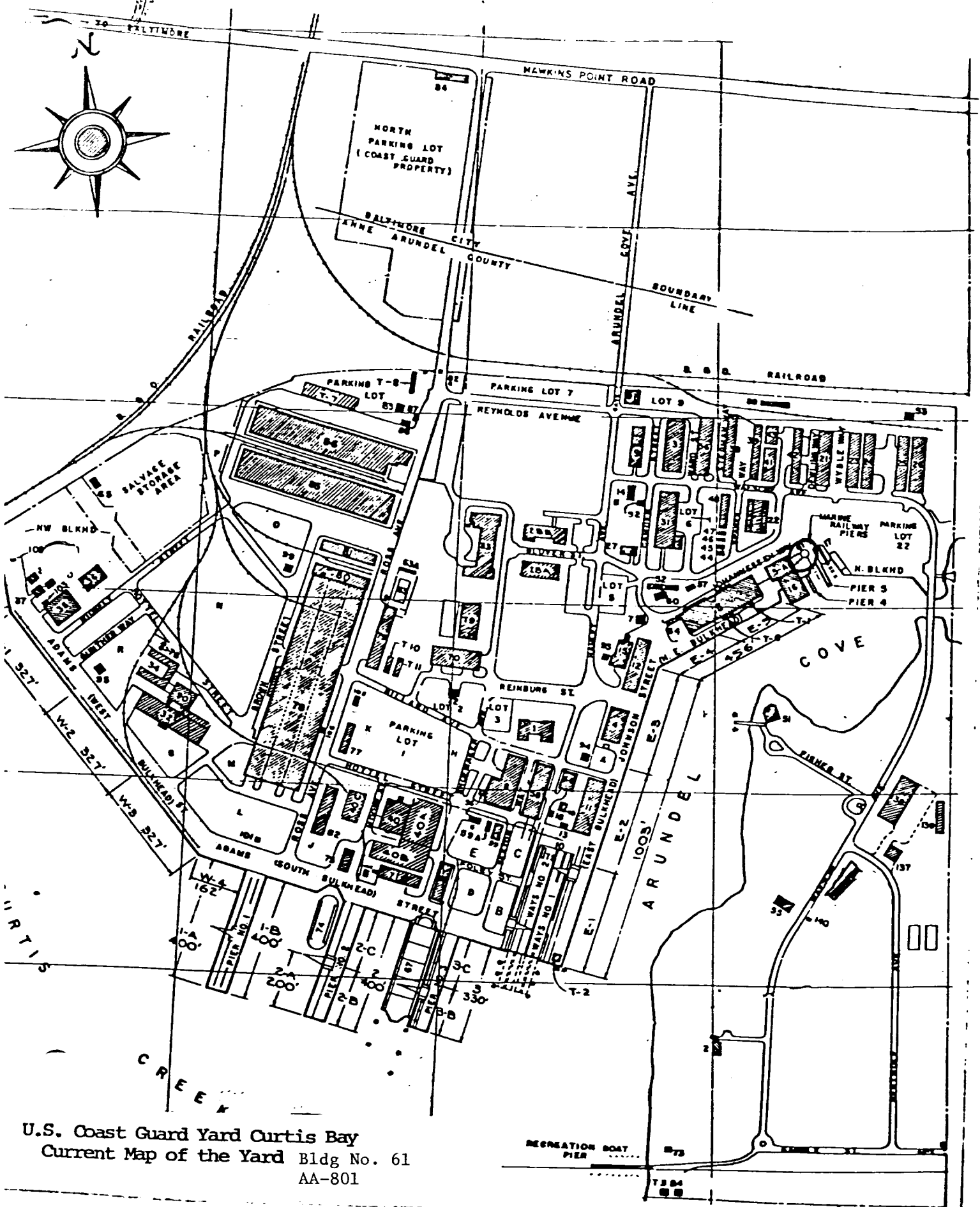
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



U.S. Coast Guard Yard Curtis Bay  
Current Map of the Yard Bldg No. 61  
AA-801



AA - 801

MARINE RAILWAYS

ANNE ARUNDEL, MD

SHERI MINSH

APRIL 1996

MARYLAND SHPO

CAMERA FACING WEST

~~44 OF 75~~

1 of 1





U.S. Coast Guard Yard      AA-801

Curtis Bay - Structure No. 61

Anne Arundel County, Md

Susanne Moore

July 1981

Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, MD

View of Rail turntable and shipways,  
north side

1/1